

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB
CSCE COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASE, CSCE, PINS, YO

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE REGARDING LACK OF CONSULAR ACCESS
TO U.S. CITIZENS

REF: BELGRADE 4388

1. EUR/EE OFFICER USED OCCASION OF VISIT ON OTHER MATTERS
BY YUGOSLAV POLITICAL COUNSELOR MATIC AND EMBASSY LEGAL
ADVISOR JERGIC TO RAISE SUBJECT OF GOY'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE
CONSULAR ACCESS TO U.S. CITIZENS. DEPARTMENT OFFICER
NOTED THAT EMBASSY, ON DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, HAD DIS-
CUSSED THIS MATTER YESTERDAY WITH MFA OFFICIALS. MATIC
AGREED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S VIEW THAT SUCH INCIDENTS
COULD AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT THIS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE
TIME BY SCRUPULOUS ADHERENCE TO STANDARD PROCEDURES BY
YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF
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OUR COMMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFING,
BUT SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP ON JUNE 30.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE TWO AMERICANS WHO
WERE EXPELLED FROM YUGOSLAVIA?

A: AS NEWS REPORTS STATE, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BELGRADE CONFIRMED THAT ON JUNE 28 YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES EXPELLED TWO AMERICANS, ANDREW FEDYNSKY AND ADAM MISZTAL, WHO SOUGHT TO HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT MEETINGS OF THE PREPARATORY REVIEW CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE.

Q: DID YOU PROTEST THE YUGOSLAV ACTION?

A: YESTERDAY EMBASSY OFFICIALS (DCM AND CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF) MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE YUGOSLAV MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER THIS AND SEVERAL OTHER RECENT EXPULSIONS OF AMERICANS DURING THIS CSCE MEETING IN WHICH YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES FAILED TO GIVE TIMELY NOTICE OF THE DETENTION AND EXPULSION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM YUGOSLAVIA. WE POINTED OUT YUGOSLAV RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE VIENNA CONSULAR CONVENTION AND THE EXISTING CONSULAR TREATY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT WE WILL BE INFORMED PROMPTLY WHEN SUCH CASES ARISE AND THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WILL BE PERMITTED TIMELY CONTACT WITH THEIR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES.

Q: HAVE YOU RAISED THE MATTER HERE WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS?

A: WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM HERE AS WELL.
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Q: DID YOU OBJECT TO THE GROUNDS FOR THEIR EXPULSION?

A: WE MADE CLEAR OUR DIFFERING VIEW ABOUT PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, ETC. MOUNTED BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHICH DID NOT INTERFERE WITH PROPER FUNCTIONING OF MEETINGS.

Q: DO YOU CONSIDER THE YUGOSLAV ACTION IN EXPELLING SUCH PERSONS AS IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT?

A: I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THE YUGOSLAV ACTION BEYOND NOTING THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED DIFFERING OF VIEWS. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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